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Agenda item 63

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Pedro **Cardoso** (Brazil)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 5th, 9th and 21st meetings, from 3 to 5 and on 10 and 21 October 2005. At its 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 63 jointly with items 61 and 62. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/60/SR.1-5, 9 and 21).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/60/151);

(b) Identical letters dated 24 August 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council transmitting the Declaration of the Doha International Conference on Ageing in View of Present-Day Changes, held at Doha from 4 to 6 April 2005 (A/60/377-E/2005/92).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 3 October, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

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and the representative of the United Nations Volunteers programme made introductory statements and responded to a question posed by the representative of South Africa (see A/C.3/60/SR.1).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.2

5. At the 9th meeting, on 10 October, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Belarus and the Russian Federation, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/60/L.2).

6. At the 21st meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Jamaica orally revised the draft resolution by inserting at the end of the fourth preambular paragraph the words "which limits the scope of implementation efforts". Subsequently, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.2, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

9. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and its resolution 59/150 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, in which the Council invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling further Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, entitled "Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002",[2] in which the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years, with each review and appraisal cycle to focus on one of the priority directions of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recognizing that in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

1. *Calls upon* Governments, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the non-governmental community to reinforce their advocacy campaigns aimed at informing all major societal actors, including older persons and their organizations, about the decisions taken at the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

2. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] take into account the situation of older persons;

3. *Calls upon* Governments and the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandate, and encourages the non-governmental community, to ensure that the challenges of population ageing and the concerns of older persons are adequately incorporated into their programmes and projects;

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[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

4. *Invites* Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the needs and concerns of older persons in decision-making at all levels;

5. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002,[4] and in this connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

6. *Calls upon* Governments to consult and utilize the Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-First Century, adopted by the Valencia Forum in April 2002, as a tool for strengthening national capacity on ageing for the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action;

7. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to encourage and support comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries;

8. *Invites* the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to integrate the issues of population and individual ageing into their work in order to promote implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

9. *Recommends* that the Commission on the Status of Women continue to consider the situation of older women, in particular those who are most vulnerable, including those living in rural areas;

10. *Encourages* those regional commissions that have not yet done so to elaborate a regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

11. *Takes note* of Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1,[2] and in this context requests the Secretary-General to present his proposals for conducting the review and appraisal exercise at the regional and global levels to the Commission at its forty-fourth session;

12. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to strengthen the capacity of the focal points on ageing and to provide them with adequate resources for further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, in particular through appropriate mainstreaming action;

13. *Stresses* the importance of the collection of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations system to support national efforts in capacity-building, especially those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, takes note in this context of the establishment by the United Nations of an Internet-accessible database on ageing, and invites States to submit, whenever possible, information for inclusion in the database;

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[4] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and requests that it be forwarded to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fourth session in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[5] A/60/151.